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REMARKS

Claims 1-35, 48-53 and 59-68 remain in this application, with Claims 36-47 and 54-58 canceled without prejudice to the re-filing of these claims in a continuation application. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and review of the application as presently amended.

At the outset, the Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of 1-35, 48-53 and 59-68. In the interest of expediting prosecution and allowance of the application, the Applicant has cancelled all remaining rejected claims. This application is therefore in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 54-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Daly et al. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 36-47 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Daly et al., alone and in combination with other prior art references. In view of the cancellation of these claims, these grounds of rejection are considered moot. It is noted that the Examiner included Claim 33 in the statement of rejection (see Office Action, p. 3, para. 6), but also expressly stated that the claim is allowable (see p. 4, para. 7). It is believed that the statement of rejection was in error, and clarification is therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-35, 48-53 and 59-68 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited.

While the Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Date: March 27, 2001

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Respectfully submitted,

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